were undertaken on Army and BSF camps in Jammu & Kashmir from November-December 1999 onwards.

(b) and (c) The US authorities are aware of the links between Osama Bin Laden and Pakistan-based terrorist groups. Testifying before a US Congressional Committee in Washington on 2 February 2000 the Director of Central Intelligence Agengy confirmed to the American Congressional Committee that Osama Bin Laden was providing substantial support to extremist groups operating in Jammu & Kashmir. Government are aware that in addition to Pakistan, training camps of these groups have been established in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan.

(d) and (f) International law provides for the right to legitimate self-defence. Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community Pakistan's role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism and its attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. Government have also apprised the international community of their firm resolve to take all necessry measures to preserve security and territorial integrity of the country.

Indo-French Forum

2342. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-French Forum has recently taken place to explore an expansion of trade, cultural educational and other relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the measures Government have, so far, take or propose to taken in this regard to strengthen the friendship and co-operation between the two countries and agreements to boost the trade, economy, science and technology cooperation, cultural exchange programme, tourism, agriculture and exports are signed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The fourth meeting of the Indo-French Forum was held in New Delhi on 14 to 18 February 2000 under the co-chairmanship of Shri R.K. Hegde and Mr. Jean Francois-Poncet.

(b) and (c) Forum members reviewed the progress made on the earlier initiatives of the Forum and considered new steps to enhance bilateral cooperation between India and France. An important Forum initiative, the seminar on "India and France in a Multipolar World' was organised in New Delhi on February 16-17, 2000 and addressed by External Affairs Minister.

The measures taken by Govenrment so far include the economic mega-show "France-India 2000' organised in New Delhi in December 1999; the "Water Technology Week' organised on November, 19-26, 1999 in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta; the signing of Letter of Intent between the two countries for setting up a Laser Laboratory in India; the "EduFrance' Seminar organised in India in November 1999 to popularise French higher education in India, the grant of an additional 100 scholarships for India; students by the French Government and the Seminar of India and France on "Multipolar World' organised in New Delhi on February 16-17, 2000.

Among the other measures being considered, in conformity with the recommendations of the Forum, are incresed cooperation in the field of Information Technology, Indian agriculture and food processing industry an encouragement of French partiopatioti in Technology Summit and Chem-India 2000.
'

Chinese incursion across the LAC

2343. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese incursions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) into the Indian territory in the Northern Ladakh region have increased significantly, particularly during the recent Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The resolution of the boundary question between India and china is' outstanding. The two sides have differences in perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, including in the Ladakh region of J&K (Western Sector). Both sides carry cut patrolling activity in the India-China border areas. Violations of the LAC are taken up through diplomatic channels and at Border Personnel Meetings/Flag Meetings.